

Message Text

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ACTION SCS-03

INFO OCT-01 EUR-06 ISO-00 SCA-01 L-03 SY-04 INR-11 CIAE-00

NSAE-00 PRS-01 /030 W

----- 015149

R 170921Z JUL 74

FM AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9983

INFO AMEMBASSY ROME

AMCONSUL TRIESTE

AMCONSUL ZAGREB

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BELGRADE 3478

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CASC, YO (DIRLAM, JOEL BAXTER)

SUBJECT: DENIAL OF ENTRY OF AMCIT INTO YUGOSLAVIA

REF: A. ZAGREB 606; B. BELGRADE 3030

SUMMARY: GOY AUTHORITIES INDICATE THAT DIRLAM BANISHED FROM YUGO-SLAVIA FOR 5 YEARS, APPARENTLY FOR UNFAVORABLE WRITINGS. AT SAME TIME, GOY OFFICIAL ASSURED THAT THIS NOT A TREND, BUT ONLY AN ISOLATED CASE. END SUMMARY.

1. UPON RECEIPT OF REF A, EMBOFF CALLED FSFA DUTY OFFICER WHO SAID THAT HE DID NOT HAVE ANY DETAILS ABOUT DENIAL OF ENTRY, BUT IN GENERAL, IMMIGRATION OFFICIALS CAN EXERCISE "RIGHT OF DISCRETION" AND FSFA UNABLE TO INTERVENE WITH RESPONSIBLE ORGANS. IN ANY EVENT, DECISION TO DENY ENTRY TO DIRLAM NOT LIKELY TO BE CHANGED DURING APPROOACHING WEEKEND. THIS INFO WAS CONVEYED TO ZAGREB AND TRIESTE BY TELEPHONE LATE ON JULY 12.

2. IN VIEW OF FSFA'S GENERALLY UNINFORMATIVE ATTITUDE IN CASES THIS TYPE, EMB DECIDED CONTACT FEDERAL SECRETARIAT FOR INTERNAL AFFAIRS (FSIA) DIRECTLY. ON JULY 16, CONSUL SPOKE WITH SVETIN FRLETA, NEW DEPUTY CHIEF OF DEPT FOR FOREIGNERS WHO, NOTED THAT CONTACTS OF THIS TYPE NORMALLY SHOULD GO THROUGH FSFA. NONETHELESS,
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FSIA WILLING TO DEAL DIRECTLY WITH EMB ON URGENT OR "DELICATE"

QUESTIONS.

3. FRLETA SAID HE DID NOT HAVE ANY DETAILS ABOUT DIRLAM'S RECENT APPLICATION FOR ENTRY FROM ITALY, BUT IT WAS HIS UNDERSTANDING THAT DIRLAM HAD CONDUCTED RESEARCH IN YUGOSLAVIA PREVIOUSLY, AT WHICH TIME HE "ABUSED HOSPITALITY AFFORDED HIM BY SFRJ," AND FOR WHICH HE HAD SUBSEQUENTLY BEEN BANNED FROM YUGOSLAVIA FOR FIVE YEARS. FRLETA THOUGHT THAT BANISHMENT NOTATION HAD BEEN STAMPED IN DIRLAM'S PASSPORT, AND THAT DIRLAM HAD APPLIED TO A YUGOSLAV CONSULAR POST IN THE US TO HAVE BAN LIFTED. IT WAS NOT KNOWN WHETHER DIRLAM HAD USED THIS SAME PASSPORT TO TRY TO RE-ENTER YUGOSLAVIA, OR WHETHER HE HAD NEW PASSPORT WITHOUT BANISHMENT NOTATION.

4. FRLETA SAID PRIVATELY THAT HE WAS NOT FAMILIAR WITH CONTENTS OF DIRLAM'S WRITINGS, BUT THAT AUTHOR HAD APPARENTLY "DRAWN SOME INCORRECT AND UNTOWARD CONCLUSION ABOUT YUGOSLAVIA" ON THE BASIS OF HIS RESEARCH. FRLETA ALSO CRYPTICALLY NOTED THAT THE YUGOSLAV FLAG, IN DIRLAM'S BOOK, HAD BEEN PRINTED OR PORTRAYED AS BEING "RED, WHITE AND BLACK" RATHER THAN "RED, WHITE AND BLUE".

5. CONSUL POINTED OUT THAT WE WERE UNAWARE OF DIRLAM'S PREVIOUS BANISHMENT, BUT WANTED TO CLARIFY REASONS THEREFOR, ESPECIALLY IN VIEW OF RECENT EXPLUSION OF PROF. MICHAEL MILENKOVITCH. (FEF B.) FRLETA WAS QUICK TO ASSURE THAT THE GOY WAS NOT BEING DISCRIMINATORY, AND THERE WAS NO GENERAL POLICY TO DISCOURAGE AMERICAN SCHOLARS, RESEARCHERS AND AUTHORS FROM VISITING AND STUDYING YUGOSLAVIA. HE SAID ALL CASES ARE DEALT WITH INDIVIDUALLY, AND IT WAS UNFORTUNATE THAT THESE TWO INCIDENTS HAPPENED SO CLOSE TOGETHER.

6. FRLETA ADDED THAT DIRLAM'S FUTURE RE-ENTRY TO YUGOSLAVIA WOULD DEPEND ON HIS ACTION TOWARDS YUGOSLAVIA, AND THAT HE COULD FILE APPEAL THROUGH YUGOSLAV CONSULAR AUTHORITIES ABROAD.

7. WHILE WE PRESUME DIRLAM NO LONGER IN TRIESTE, HE MAY INQUIRE WITH DEPT IN FUTURE ABOUT OUTCOME OF OUR INQUIRY. IN MEANTIME, WOULD APPRECIATE ANY INFO DEPT MAY HAVE ABOUT DIRLAM ON HIS BOOK. OUR RECORDS INDICATE DIRLAM WAS IN YUGOSLAVIA UNDER USG AUSPICES IN 1966 FOR MACROECONOMICS SEMINAR, AND LOCAL EMPLOYEES RECALL HE HAS BEEN HERE SINCE THAT TIME UNDER PRIVATE AUSPICES.

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8. COMMENT: ALTHOUGH GOY PROBABLY NOT APPLYING ANY RESTRICTIONS AGAINST AMERICAN STUDENTS OF YUGOSLAVIA, IT NOT HELPFUL TO HAVE INDIVIDUAL INCIDENTS CROPPING UP IN BUNCHES, ESPECIALLY IF THEY SHOULD BE REPORTED IN PRESS. WE PLAN TO MENTION THIS TO FSFA AMERICAN DESK IN LOW KEY POINTING OUT POTENTIAL PRESS PROBLEM SUCH INCIDENTS CAN CAUSE.

TOON

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 17 JUL 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: blochd0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974BELGRA03478
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740191-0971
From: BELGRADE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740743/aaaabklo.tel
Line Count: 115
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION SCS
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: A. ZAGREB 606; B. BELGRADE 3030
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: blochd0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 17 JUN 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <22 MAY 2002 by elyme>; APPROVED <27 MAR 2003 by GolinoFR>; WITHDRAWN <13 Jun 2005 by BoyleJA, PRIVACY>; RELEASED <17 JUN 2005 by powellba2>; APPROVED <20 JUN 2005 by blochd0>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: DENIAL OF ENTRY OF AMCIT INTO YUGOSLAVIA
TAGS: CASC, YO, (DIRLAM, JOEL BAXTER)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005